

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A food waste disposer, comprising:
 - a food conveying section;
 - a grinding mechanism;
 - a motor housing that includes** a motor operably connected to the grinding mechanism; and
 - a discharge chamber generally surrounding the grinding mechanism.
2. (Original) The food waste disposer of claim 1, wherein the grind mechanism includes a shredder plate that is rotatable by the motor.
3. (Original) The food waste disposer of claim 2, wherein the grind mechanism includes a stationary grind ring.
4. (Currently amended) The food waste disposer of claim 3, wherein the shredder plate defines a **horizontal** plane, and wherein at least a portion of the discharge chamber is located above the plane.
5. (Original) The food waste disposer of claim 4, wherein the discharge chamber defines a discharge port, and wherein at least a portion of the discharge port is located above the plane.
6. (Original) The food waste disposer of claim 1, wherein the discharge chamber and the grind ring define a gap therebetween.

7. (Original) The food waste disposer of claim 6, wherein the discharge chamber defines a discharge port, and wherein the gap defines a cross-sectional area that increases from a first location to the discharge port.
8. (Original) The food waste disposer of claim 2, further comprising a plurality of lugs attached to the shredder plate.
9. (Original) The food waste disposer of claim 1, wherein the motor is a brushless permanent magnet (BPM) motor.
10. (Withdrawn) A food waste disposer, comprising:
 - a food conveying section;
 - a grinding mechanism; and
 - a brushless permanent magnet (BPM) motor operably connected to the grinding mechanism.
11. (Withdrawn) The food waste disposer of claim 10, wherein the BPM motor includes a rotor situated relative to a stator, the rotor including a plurality of magnets situated in a core section of the rotor.
12. (Withdrawn) The food waste disposer of claim 10, further comprising a discharge chamber, wherein the grind mechanism includes a shredder plate defining a plane, and wherein at least a portion of the discharge member is located above the plane.

13. (Withdrawn) The food waste disposer of claim 12, wherein the discharge chamber defines a discharge port, and wherein at least a portion of the discharge port is located above the plane.
14. (Withdrawn) The food waste disposer of claim 12, wherein the grind mechanism includes a grind ring, and wherein the discharge chamber and the grind ring define a gap therebetween.
15. (Withdrawn) The food waste disposer of claim 14, wherein a cross-sectional area of the gap increases from a first location to a discharge port defined by the discharge chamber.
16. (Withdrawn) The food waste disposer of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of lugs attached to the shredder plate.
17. (Withdrawn) A food waste disposer comprising:
 - a food conveying section;
 - a grind ring;
 - a rotatable shredder plate; and
 - means for rotating the shredder plate.
18. (Withdrawn) The food waste disposer of claim 17, further comprising means for discharging food waste from the disposer.

19. (Original) A method of operating a food waste disposer including a grinding mechanism, the grinding mechanism having a stationary grind ring and a shredder plate that is rotatable relative to the grind ring, the method comprising:
- receiving the food waste into the grinding mechanism;
- rotating the shredder plate to grind the food waste against the grinding mechanism; and
- discharging the ground food waste from the grinding mechanism via a discharge member surrounding the grinding mechanism.
20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein rotating the shredder plate includes operating a brushless permanent magnet motor having a shaft connected to the shredder.
21. (New) The food waste disposer of claim 9, wherein the brushless permanent magnet (BPM) motor comprises a rotor, a shaft, and a stator.
22. (New) The food waste disposer of claim 21, wherein the rotor comprises permanent magnets.
23. (New) The food waste disposer of claim 21, wherein the shaft has an upper end that passes through a bearing/sealing mechanism and connects to the shredder plate of the grinding mechanism.

24. (New) The food waste disposer of claim 21, wherein the stator is formed from a plurality of laminations and comprises windings situated around a plurality of stator teeth.